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FM AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7263
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0052
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0039
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0009
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0096
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0105
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0014
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0266
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0100
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0019
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000109

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STATE FOR T, IO, ISN, EUR/CE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [KNNP](#) [IAEA](#) [SI](#)
SUBJECT: IAEA DG RACE: SLOVENIA NOMINATES PETRIC

REF: VIENNA 156

Classified By: CDA Brad Freden, Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (SBU) The MFA held a briefing for Ljubljana's diplomatic corps on April 17 to present Dr. Ernest Petric as Slovenia's candidate for IAEA Director General. Andrej Benedejcic, Director-General of Policy Planning and Multilateral Political Relations, said that Slovenia believed that Petric "could be a unifying candidate." He claimed that Petric's diplomatic experience, managerial experience, and experience at the IAEA made him an excellent candidate. Post will forward background information to Slovenia's nomination, the press release accompanying his announcement, and a short CV to the Department and USMission UNVIE.

¶2. (C) Comment. We know Petric well and favorably as a diplomat, legal scholar, and Constitutional Court justice. However, we are not in a position to evaluate his qualifications to be the IAEA DG. We understand that there are other serious candidates and suggest that USMission UNVIE is better qualified to judge Petric's relative merits.
FREDEN